

moval of a needle or bullet by means of the fluoroscopic screen than in any other form of X-ray work. It is so much easier and safer, also far more accurate, to localize the foreign body by means of plates taken in two or more angles. To make a long story short, use the photographic plate whenever possible and use the fluoroscopic screen only in those cases where the plates do not give the desired information.

So we go on with what we had in mind to write about, namely, the discovery of a new class of human beings, a class just like ourselves, with the same capacity to be happy and miserable, but a class that seems to have escaped the beneficent and benevolent eye of humanity up till now. We refer to the indigent aged. There are hospitals and homes, there is a distinct literature, there are conventions and conferences for apparently every other class of people in the world—but for the aged, there is a waiting place for eternity, and an infinitely small niche in the hall of oblivion.

But now there seems to be a new day for the aged. They seem to be human, even as you and I, and entitled to at least a casual survey at the hands of trained and sympathetic students.—The Modern Hospital, July, 1917.

## Book Reviews

**First Lessons in Spoken French for Doctors and Nurses.** By Ernest H. Wilkins, Algernon Coleman and Ethel Preston. Chicago. The University of Chicago Press. 1917. Price 50c.

This seems to be a useful little pocket aid in learning the elements of medical French. A man who carries it about him and studies it in his spare moments should, with a little practice in pronunciation, be able to pick up enough French to make himself understood. L. E.

**The Kingdom of the Mind.** How to promote intelligent living and avert mental disaster. By James Mortimer Keniston, M. D. New York. G. P. Putnam & Sons. 1916.

This book takes up in a very readable way the factors that make for a wholesome mental existence. While no new ideas are brought out, the work thoroughly accomplishes its purpose in giving to those interested in mental hygiene a clear, entertaining account free from confusing theories and technical phrases. H. G. M.

**Handbook of Suggestive Therapeutics and Applied Hypnotism.** By Henry S. Munro. 4th ed. St. Louis. Mosby Company. 1917.

This book is a complete manual and an instructive exposition of applied psychotherapy. It deals with the latest advances of this much neglected subject and gives practical advice, not only to the specialist for nervous and mental diseases, but to the general practitioner as well. The book fascinates the reader with its many interesting demonstrations and scientific explanations of facts taken from daily medical practice; facts which have hitherto grossly been overlooked by medical men. It is well written from a literary standpoint, and easily intelligible. A. G.

**The Treatment of Emergencies.** By Hubley R. Owens, M. D., Surgeon to the Phila. General Hospital; Asst. Surgeon to the Phila. Orthopedic Hospital and Infirmary for Nervous Diseases; Chief Surgeon to the Phila. Police and Fire Bureaus; Asst. Surgeon Medical Reserve

Corps, U. S. Navy. 12mo volume of 350 pages, with 249 illustrations. Philadelphia and London. W. B. Saunders Company. 1917. Cloth \$2.00 net.

A surgical monograph dealing in a simple and cleancut style, with the usual emergencies that are encountered in a large city.

The text comprises a series of lectures that the author has given to many pupil nurses and the members of the police and fire departments of Philadelphia. Dr. Owen manifests a clear understanding of just how much the average student of first aid is able to master. The procedures recommended are simple and practical. This book will be of extreme value to any physician giving lectures on emergency treatment and the training of medical corps men.

A great many procedures described are of much value to every doctor, particularly in the chapter on transportation of injured persons. The warning that many simple fractures are compounded by improper handling and that lives are lost by hauling injured persons to a hospital when they could be saved if proper first aid treatment were given at the time of the accident, is fitting. The illustrations are appropriate and very instructive. The definitions are short, not technical and well suited to work on first aid. E. B.

**New Method in Diabetes.** By J. H. Kellogg, M. D. Battle Creek. Good Health Publishing Co. 1917. Price \$2.50.

The new method in diabetes by Dr. Kellogg, as stated in the preface, is intended for the use of nurses and patients, but as a matter of fact, it is in many places certainly beyond the mental range of the layman. At the same time it contains so much valuable material put in such excellent form as to be of decided advantage to the general practitioner of medicine. The book does not purport to go into the minutiae of the pathology of diabetes, or to summarize the bases of the recent advances in the theory of treatment, but it does give in very succinct form a good explanation of the grounds for the Allen method and provides in the form of tables and recipes an excellent groundwork for the daily treatment of diabetes. It is probably true that few other classes of cases give more trouble to the physician in the matter of directions than does diabetes. Dr. Kellogg, by the excellence of his charts, and the descriptions of 130 dishes suited to the dietary of diabetics, with the calory values of their constituents, provides an excellent escape from our usual dilemma. Did the book contain nothing else but the recipes it would be well worth a place on our library shelves.

It should be mentioned that Dr. Kellogg lays great stress on the subject of constipation and upon a correct condition of the abdominal musculature. He gives excellent directions for the treatment of diabetic cases along this line. H. D'A. P.

**Diseases of the Genito-Urinary Organs and the Kidneys.** By Robert H. Greene, M. D., Professor of Genito-Urinary Surgery at the Fordham University, New York; and Harlow Brooks, M. D., Professor of Clinical Medicine, University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College. Fourth Edition, Thoroughly Revised. Octavo of 666 pages, 301 illustrations. Philadelphia and London. W. B. Saunders Company. 1917. Cloth. \$5.50 net. Half morocco, \$7.00 net.

The new edition of this eminently useful book will be welcomed by the general practitioner as well as by the urological specialist as a valuable addition to their library. In clear and concise language those methods of diagnosis and treatment

are dealt with that have stood the test, according to the authors' own ripe experience; while speculative views and methods unsuitable for general work are either only briefly mentioned or not considered at all. Thus the authors have attained their goal, to make the book of practical value and to base theory and practice on a sound pathological and physiologic basis.

Particularly conspicuous, in this connection, is the introductory chapter dealing with the general examination of the patient, which abounds in many useful suggestions and which, on account of the complete and circumspect presentation of the subject, is a veritable masterpiece.

The authors' views on the more recent additions to the urological diagnostic and therapeutic armamentarium (pyelography, operative cystoscopy, etc.), are, while up to date and progressive, always sane and conservative. Simplicity and delicacy, as well as practical experience, are the key-notes of the chapter on instrumental examination, the scope of which is treated in an entirely modern fashion, with the exception of two pages devoted to the description of the now obsolete urinary segregators. Consideration of the more complicated functional tests, the intricate technique of which tends to relegate them to laboratory workers only, like the methylene blue, the polyuria, the cryoscopy tests, etc., have been eliminated from this edition, while practically commodious tests, like the phthalein, the phloridzin, the blood-nitrogen tests, are fully described.

The authors' adverse criticism of spinal anesthesia is apparently not based on extensive personal experience. Their attitude towards the value of the complement fixation test for the diagnosis of gonorrhea is rather reserved and non-committal. Such statements contained in the interesting chapter on the blood in diseases of the kidney as: "Periods of great faith in this or that test, with growing experience, have given way only to a more firm reliance on the value of the clinical picture of each individual case, taken as a problem by itself," and: "There is now a general tendency to overestimate the dangers of high blood pressure and to resort to frantic measures to artificially reduce it," amply testify to the sound teaching pervading the book. Particular mention in this connection deserves the chapter on the surgical treatment of Bright's disease, which proves the progressive spirit and, at the same time, the conservative judgment of the authors.

In the chapter on stone in the bladder due credit is given to the work of our own late Dr. Geo. Chismore, and the only discord in this connection is sounded when our general confrere, Dr. E. G. McConnell, as in the former edition, is mentioned under the "nom de plume" McCormack. But while this lapsus linguae is somewhat excusable, the reader can hardly reconcile his philological conscience to the numerous linguistically and grammatically erroneous quotations of Latin phrases and foreign references, the correction of which would certainly add to the dignity and charm of future editions of this otherwise excellent urological handbook.

The description of operations is frequently illustrated by a brief report of personal observations, by which means the text is rendered less dry and, at the same time, more instructive. Print and illustrations are faultless. It can safely be predicted that the fourth edition of the book will add many new friends to the numerous admirers it had in the past.

M. K.

## Correspondence

### AN OPEN LETTER.

You ask why I do not try Christian Science on my paralysis? There are several answers which might be given. Perhaps the easiest answer is that, from a Christian Science basis, to "try" Christian Science formulae insures failure. Absolute faith in the formulae is the key to its efficacy. That I do not possess. In fact I have absolute lack of faith in it. So you will see that, even from your own point of view, I would just as well recite the multiplication table.

I hear you ask why I do not believe in it? The easiest answer to that is, that the evidence adduced does not convince me, beyond a reasonable doubt, that it is true. I am requested to believe there is no such thing as disease. That what we call disease is only "error." My right hand trembles and is beyond my control. It does not make a particle of difference to me whether you call that a condition or disease or an "error." The evidence of my senses, interpreted and correlated by my brain, convinces me that I am afflicted by what I call paralysis. It is immaterial to me what it is called.

Christian Science tries to tell me that my senses and my brain have deceived me; that the whole thing is "error." I know of no way of gaining knowledge but by experience and observation. Christian Science demands that I discard the use of my brain and my senses. How, then, am I to gain a knowledge of Christian Science? Your tongue, my ear, my brain, are not trustworthy!! Christian Science tells me that there is no such thing as matter. That all we see, hear, touch, taste and smell is "error." Where, then, am I to get truth? Only emotion is left! I cannot conceive of emotion without sense. Where came this knowledge to the Christian Scientist? From Mary Baker G. Eddy. Whence did she get it? She says, from God!!! I believe in God. He created the world and everything in it. He did not create a lie!! The things which He created are true things. He created my brain and all my organs of sense. These are telling me the things which He ordered them to tell me. If they lie, God is lying!!! I believe the evidences of my senses in spite of Christian, or any other science!!! You say that you believe in it, and I have no doubt that you think you do. But every time you partake of food or drink, you deny it!!

Your actions speak louder to me than do your words. Bear in mind that I am not trying to proselyte you. I have not the slightest objection to your preaching and practicing Christian Science so long as you do not let it lead you unnecessarily to expose yourself to infection and contagion. If you should go to live on the island among the mosquitoes, I desire to warn you, as did the cowboy friends of "Ruggles of Red Gap," when they were compelled to sleep in the open, warn him of the terrible animal called the "High-behind." "High-behind" accurately describes the attitude of the *Anopheles* mosquito when at rest upon the wall; and this is the mosquito which inoculates people with malaria. If a sufficient number of them bite you, it will take a lot of Christian Science to convince you that you have not a genuine attack of "chills and fever." Look well to your screens, and keep him out and yourself in, from sunset to sunrise, for only by so doing will you be safe. Ruggles imagined that the "High-behind" was some terrible beast like a man-eating lion or tiger, and he really is about as dangerous.

Just one more word of caution and I am done with the subject. Never allow yourself to go around the community, scattering germs of disease among your neighbors and their children, lest the greatest of all "errors"—death,—overtake them. Death is no respecter of Christian Science, as is evidenced by the fact that its founder is dead. —(Contributed by Dr. J. R. Jones, Secretary Siskiyou County Medical Society.)